

AMENDMENT

I. Amendments to the Specification

On page 11 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 16 and ending at line 22 with the following replacement paragraph:

A particularly interesting method of preparing the hydrogels of the invention involves an inline cross-linking process. Two individual and eventually degassed flows, one being a pre-mix of acrylic amide, ~~bis-methylene acryl-amide~~ methylene bis-acrylamide (the cross-linker) and TEMED, the other being the AMPS initiator solution, are pumped into a static mixer for mixing, chemical initiation and subsequent extrusion downstream into a pipe reactor made of Teflon® or steel in which the polymerisation occurs. Washing of the gel is simplified due to high surface area of gel from reactor.